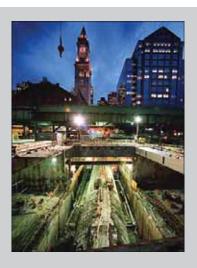
The Alaskan Way Viaduct & Seawall Replacement Project











For More Information:

Visit the Web site at:

www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/viaduct

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206-269-4421

Send an e-mail to:

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Send a letter to:

Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Project c/o Washington State Department of Transportation 999 Third Avenue, Suite 2424 Seattle, WA 98104

A Comparison of the Big Dig and the Alaskan Way Viaduct Project

Many people have heard about Boston's Central Artery/Tunnel Project, commonly referred to as "The Big Dig." The Big Dig project faced cost overruns, scope growth, and a prolonged construction schedule, among other issues.

While replacing the Alaskan Way Viaduct will be a major project, it is important to note that the Big Dig project was on a much larger scale. Boston's project was an eight-mile stretch with multiple tunnels and bridges. With either a cut-and-cover tunnel or an elevated structure, the length of affected highway is less than half of what was affected in Boston.

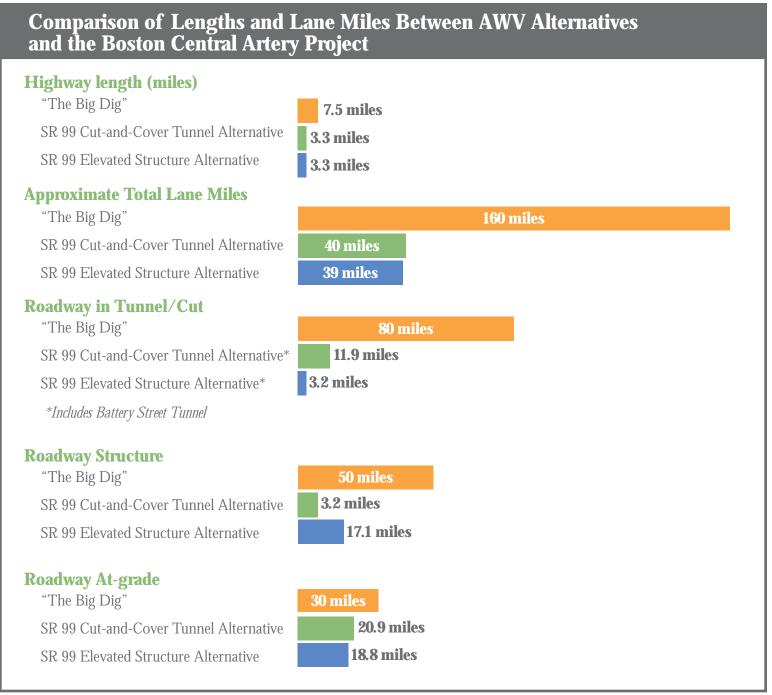
The Central Artery/Tunnel Project had two major components:

- Replacing the six-lane elevated highway with an eight-to-ten lane underground expressway, and two bridges totaling 14 lanes.
- Extending I-90 through a tunnel between South Boston and Boston Harbor to Logan Airport.

The project also had several engineering feats that exacerbated the risk for cost overruns and schedule delays:

- The 1.6 mile Ted Williams Tunnel goes underwater for three-quarters of a mile. At 90 feet below the surface of Boston Harbor, it is the deepest such connection in North America. No section of the cut-and-cover tunnel that is being considered for Seattle will go underwater.
- The project's seven-building ventilation system is one of the largest highway tunnel ventilation systems in the world.
- The Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Bridge is the widest cable-stayed bridge in the world and the first hybrid design in the United States, using both steel and concrete.

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A lane mile counts each lane of highway as a mile; so a section of highway one mile long with 5 lanes equals 5 lane miles.

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